

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Memorandum

To: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs

Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

From: William J. Hussey, Director **w**

Exceptional Children Division

Date: April 30, 2018

Re: New Consultant for Significant Cognitive Disabilities and Multihandicapped

The Exceptional Children Division is pleased to announce that Matthew Martinez has joined the Supporting Teaching and Related Services (STARS) section to serve as Consultant for Significant Cognitive Disabilities and Multihandicapped.

Prior to assuming this responsibility, Matthew has devoted his career to the teaching and learning of students with disabilities. For the past 18 years, Matthew has taught students of all age ranges and types of disabilities in urban, suburban and rural areas. He earned specialized degrees in Moderate and Severe Disabilities, Low Incidence Disabilities and is a Nationally Board-Certified Teacher for students with significant disabilities. His last 9 years he served children with moderate disabilities within Wake County Public Schools, where he was named the school's Teacher of the Year. Prior to that, he opened a Wake County High School's classroom for students with autism. Within his role as an educator, Matthew worked closely with parents, teachers, related service staff and the Down Syndrome Network to help create, train, model and implement effective evidence-based practices for students with varying degrees of disabilities. Matthew is excited and eager to begin collaborating with people from across the state to continue the strong tradition of teaching and learning for students of all abilities.

Matthew can be reached via email at Matthew.Martinez@dpi.nc.gov or by phone 919-807-4059.

WJH/DM/MM/mt